Politics of Representation:
How Do Understand "War" and the "Racial Other"

SOCI/ANTH 365
Dr. Yehuda Sharim
Monday & Wednesday: 14:00-15:15PM
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DESCRIPTION
This class is about the politics of representation, particularly in times of social mayhem, revolution, and war (and yes, of course, we will talk about the confusion taking over this city and country). The Israeli-Palestinian conflict will serve as our main case study. We will focus primarily on the cultural, sociological, and political representations of this dispute. The class will also put this dispute in comparison with other geographical and historical contexts, through examining the racial, economic, and gender frameworks. Considering that visible identities and meanings are highly constructed, encouraging us to view transparency as politically suspect, this course will host a series of questions regarding *the way we understand war and the other:* Can media show how things really are? What is the role of media during times of war? Who is seen, and who isn't and why? Can our interpretation go beyond stereotypes? Does invisibility or visibility work as a political tactic?

SAMPLE READING
Fledging by Octavia E. Butler
The Hour of the Star by Clarice Lispector
Regarding the Pain of Others by Susan Sontag
After the Last Sky by Edward Said

Please Note: No prior knowledge of Palestine/Israel history or Arabic, or Hebrew, is assumed or expected.